

a plurality of distributed object storage managers (DOSMs) for receiving requests to access said storage center; and

storage cluster, comprising a plurality of intelligent storage nodes, for storing files of said network storage system and for servicing access requests from said DOSMs.

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5. The network storage system of claim 4, further comprising a multi-cast protocol for maintaining file information at said DOSMs regarding files stored in said intelligent storage nodes.

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6. The network storage system of claim 4, wherein said DOSMs further comprise a data cache for caching at least a subset of files stored in said intelligent nodes.

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7. The network storage system of claim 6, further comprising a load balancing fabric for selecting a DOSM for an access request based on demand to access said storage center, and for caching data for files in high demand in said data caches of said DOSMs.

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8. The network storage system of claim 1, further comprising at least one additional storage center located geographically disparate from said storage center.

5 9. The network storage system of claim 8, further comprising a dynamic failover mechanism for servicing access requests from a disparate storage center in the event that a failure occurs in said storage center.

10 10. The network storage system of claim 1, further comprising a content delivery network coupled to said network storage system.

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11. A method for storing files in a network storage system, said method comprising the steps of:

15 storing file system information in a VFS to manage a plurality of files of said network storage system;

storing a plurality files in storage center;

accessing said VFS to conduct file system operations; and

accessing said storage center to download said files of said network storage system.

20 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

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generating, from said VFS, a file identifier for a file stored in said storage cluster;

receiving from a client, at said storage cluster, said file identifier;

retrieving said file identified from said file identifier at said storage center;

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transmitting said file from said storage center to said client.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of accessing, at a client, said virtual file system and said storage center using a storage port.

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14. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of accessing said virtual file system and said storage center in the event of a failover condition of said storage port from at least one additional storage port.

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15. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of accessing said storage center comprises the steps of:

receiving a request for access to said storage center;

selecting one of a plurality of distributed object storage managers (DOSMs) to service said request;

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accessing an intelligent storage node from said DOSM selected to service said request.

